THE

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL

JOURNAL.

Vol. XXI. Wednesday, October 2, 1839. No. 8.

SARATOGA SPRINGS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—I have just spent a delightful week at the famous fountains of Saratoga; and if you have room in your valuable paper, I wish to state, hastily, the history of a few invalids, who, like myself, were in the pursuit of health. The week which I spent there being the period in which Messrs. Van Buren, Clay, Forsyth, Poinsett, General Scott, and other distinguished characters, were at the Springs, when many were obliged to sleep on settees, carpets, &c., and when the large houses were rejecting scores of applicants daily, you may well suppose I deemed myself and wife fortunate in finding in the house of a friend, what, under existing circumstances, we could hardly have obtained at the *crowded* public houses.

But the object of this hasty communication is to give your readers a simple sketch of a few *water drinkers*, and the effect of the waters upon their respective complaints. And to begin the list—Mrs. C., from one of the cities of Connecticut, had been two or three months, during the winter and spring, under the treatment of one of our best and most respectable physicians, for *indigestion*, *costiveness*, *irritation of the throat*, great *weakness of lungs*, preventing common conversation, with loss of strength. By the advice of her physician she visited the Springs about three weeks since, being partially restored. She has drank the waters every morning, with occasional bathing, and is now about returning to her family with a fine, clear countenance, strong appetite, increasing strength, and an entire subsidence of all the weakness and irritation of the lungs and throat. There appears to be no reason to doubt that her improvement is permanent, and that in a few months, during which the effects of the mineral waters in the solids and fluids of her system will continue to operate, she will find her restoration complete.

The next—Miss W., of Connecticut—belongs to a highly consumptive family, and for many years scrofulous tumors have existed in various parts of the adipose tissue. She was very much emaciated, sallow and feeble; her powers of digestion were small, voice and lungs weak, with a complexion indicating unequivocally a habit of general and confirmed disease. This patient was put by her physician upon the internal use of the water as an alterative, taking it regularly one hour before each meal. As her pulse was soft, and there was apparent atony of her system, she was directed to take a *hot bath* at 105 degrees, every second day, which proved highly agreeable, and appeared to be very efficient in the progress of her recovery. Her appetite has now, at the end of three weeks, become strong and uniform. She has no hesitation in saying that she takes more than twice the quantity of food which she ate when she commenced using the water, and with no unpleasant sensations. The absorption of bile from the surface is very manifest from the clearness of her complexion, and the returning lustre of her eyes. The long-absent sensations of health and comfort are returning rapidly; and should she have the wisdom to follow the course three months—the least time in which a permanent constitutional derangement should be expected to be supplanted by movements of healthy action—she will most certainly leave the Springs with confirmed health.

The third is an interesting boy, the son of a mayor of one of the western cities of New York, about eleven years of age. He arrived at the Springs about two months since, with *enlarged tonsils*, great irritation about the throat, as evinced by a continued and distressing hawking, pale, doughy face, poor appetite, with general symptoms of debility. This patient was directed by Dr. North, who has investigated the *properties* and *effects* of the waters with great accuracy, to use them as an *alterative* and *tonic*, without any regard to their cathartic operation, and to take the cold, mineral shower bath every second day. It was not one week before his appetite was greatly improved, and now he has scarcely any trouble from the morbid secretion in his throat; the glands are much diminished, the healthy color of his cheek is returning, and from the vivacity and vigor of his movements, and the plumpness of his limbs, I should think he must be already enjoying perfect health. Knowing, as I do, the troublesome and incurable nature of this complaint, I have examined and stated the case with some minuteness; and it is very desirable that some of the numerous readers of your Journal would send to the Springs a few more cases of enlarged tonsils, that it might be proved, and have the proof repeated in your numbers, whether the mineral springs of Saratoga may not prove in all cases a cure to the complaint.

Mrs. W. has slight pulmonary disease, and a condition of the system which contra-indicates the use of *tonics*. Being aware of the impropriety of using the waters under these circumstances, she drank sparingly, and with little or no effect.

With a pulse ordinarily of 60 or 65 in a minute, soft and easily compressed, and an *atonic* state of the digestive organs, without any local or general inflammatory tendency, I drank the water in the morning with an effect altogether better than I had anticipated. The tone of my digestive organs is greatly increased, and from the use of the water I am in a better state of health than I have enjoyed for a great length of time. The suggestion which I have made respecting myself, I have offered for the purpose of inducing those of my medical brethren who may be in a similar condition, to resort, if for a few days only, to the exhilarating fountains of Saratoga. Another suggestion which I wish to make is this—that those patients who have chronic disease of an inflammatory character, should not be allowed to drink the Saratoga waters until the inflammation is removed by the use of appropriate remedies. I saw many who visited the Springs in a state of health which should have prevented them from using the waters, and who were obliged to discontinue them and resort to antiphlogistic remedies before they could safely make use of those *natural restoratives.*

It is probably known to many of your readers that a spring has been recently discovered and analyzed, which is called the Walton, or Iodine Spring, and which, in proportion to the other solid ingredients, contains more iodine, and less iron, than is contained in the waters of the other springs. This will probably prove to be an important desideratum in the treatment of some varieties of morbid action which are met with at the Springs, particularly scrofula, and will be applicable in many forms of disease when the waters which contain more iron would be decidedly injurious. The spring is situated in the upper and pleasant part of the village, is very accessible by the "High Rock," or by a flight of stairs judiciously constructed for the accommodation of visiters. This spring is daily attracting attention, and will probably gain a celebrity equal, if not superior, to that of either of the other springs.

Wethersfield, Conn., Aug. 16, 1839. Respectfully yours,

ARCHIBALD WELCH.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PHRENOLOGICAL FACULTY CALLED "ORDER."

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The essential nature of the faculty called "order," does not seem to be well understood. No phrenological writer that I am acquainted with gives any satisfactory analysis of it. Phrenologists content themselves with ascribing to this faculty certain mental manifestations, without attempting to tell us what is its essential principle or the exact range of its function. The great number of observations that have been made with regard to it prove that it has something to do with order; but it may be easily shown by analysis that order is a compound perception, and consequently cannot depend on a single faculty. Order is the result of the conjunction, juxtaposition or collocation of things according to the relations natural, artificial, arbitrary or conventional, which subsist between them; therefore before we can perceive that things are in orderly arrangement, we must know their relations and notice their conjunction in accordance with these relations, all which cannot be done by a single faculty. What part, then, does the faculty in question take in the perception of order? It seems to me that its sole function is the perception and recollection of the conjunction, juxtaposition, collocation, or contiguity of things, and that the relations according to which they are conjoined when in orderly arrangement, are perceived by the other perceptive and the reflective faculties. "The sort of arrangement," says Mr. Combe, "prompted by this faculty, is different from, although perhaps one element in, that philosophical method which is the result of the perception of the relations of things.

The faculty of which we here speak, gives method and order in arranging objects, as they are physically related; but philosophical or logical inferences, the conception of systematizing or generalizing, and the idea of classifications, are formed by the reflecting faculties." It seems to me that the faculty spoken of is concerned in every kind of arrangement whatever, for there can be no perception of arrangement without the perception of conjunction. This faculty can no more perceive the physical relations of things other than that of their being next to one another, or in juxtaposition, than it can perceive metaphysical relations.

Much of what is called order depends rather on memory and imitation, than on the exercise of reason or attention to the relations of things. It requires much less exertion of intellect to preserve order when once established, than it does to discover the relations of things and to conjoin them in such a manner that their juxtaposition may be an index of the degree of their relationship; hence a person who cannot create or invent order may be able to preserve it, for, to do so, the perception and memory of conjunction are all that is required. An idiot, by the aid of the faculty spoken of, may be able to preserve that juxtaposition of things to which he has been accustomed, without knowing or noticing the relations on which the arrangement is founded. He recollects that a certain piece of furniture was placed in juxtaposition with another, or with a certain part of the room, and from having become accustomed to this conjunction of things, he takes a pleasure in seeing it preserved. This was the case with the Sauvage de l'Aveyron; he could preserve and restore order in the room, but we are not informed that he could create or invent it, and I do not believe that he could. Dr. Spurzheim informs us that this person, "though almost a perfect idiot, could not bear to see a chair or any other article out of its place, and that as soon as anything was disarranged he went of his own accord and put it right," and we are led to suppose that he did so for the gratification of the faculty called "order," which I doubt not was the case, for this faculty takes pleasure in contemplating and recollecting the conjunction of things.

Order is natural, artificial, arbitrary or conventional. Order is natural when things are conjoined according to the natural relations or properties which they possess in common; as when events are arranged according to the time of their occurrence. The primitive colors, as we see them in the prismatic spectrum, are conjoined according to the degree of their refrangibility. The juxtaposition of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. in arithmetical progression, is determined by the nearness of their relation to one another. The degree of plurality expressed by 3, is more nearly related to that expressed by 2, than the degree of plurality expressed by 4 is related to that expressed by 2, and they are placed accordingly.

Order is artificial when things are conjoined according to artificial relations, as the hat to the head, shoes to the feet, gloves to the hands, money to the pocket, the tea-cup to the saucer, &c.

Order is arbitrary or conventional when things are conjoined in an arbitrary manner, without regard to natural or artificial relations; such is the conjunction of the letters in the alphabet. There is no natural or artificial relation between A and B, or the sounds they represent, which requires that B, rather than any other letter, should be placed next to A, and it is so placed solely in conformity to long-established usage.

When once a relation according to which things are to be arranged has been chosen, the place of each must be in harmony with that relation, though it were at first arbitrary; the juxtaposition of the letters in the alphabet is arbitrary, but the place of a word in the columns of a dictionary is determined by its alphabetical relation.

As the relations or properties which things may possess in common are very various, there may, in any particular arrangement, be order in regard to one relation or property, and disorder in regard to another; and a person may be habitually disorderly in regard to some relation of things which he does not readily perceive, though very orderly in regard to all others. Thus Mr. Milne could not be orderly in regard to colors, nor Ann Ormerod in regard to musical notes.

That arrangement of things is the most perfect in which they are conjoined in accordance with the greatest number of their common relations. There is disorder or confusion when things are conjoined, whose properties do not harmonize. Symmetry, in a body, is the result of the conjunction of similar parts or forms. No body is perfectly symmetrical which cannot be divided into two perfectly similar halves.

As the spirit of order is to have a place for everything, and to have everything in its place, no one can be orderly who is not apt to notice, and who has not a good memory for, the juxtaposition of things. Place is a compound perception; we may know the direction and distance of an object, without having a complete idea of its place; we must also know with what objects it is conjoined, to make our knowledge of its place complete. I know, for instance, that a steeple which I see rising over a hill is a mile distant in a northern direction; but I do not know with what objects it is in juxtaposition—whether it be in the midst of a village or of a wood, whether in a valley or on a hill. The faculty called "order" perceives and recollects the juxtaposition of things, their being next to one another. Locality perceives and recollects the direction in which bodies are situated, and it enables us to find them by the recollection of their direction, and the faculty called "order" enables us to find them by the recollection of their conjunction. These two faculties are thus admirably suited to our necessities, and to the constitution of the material world.

In the after part of this communication I shall show that it can be proved that the *apparent* form of a body depends on the *apparent* relative distance and direction of the points of its surface from the point of observation, and that therefore the perception of form is not simple and indecomposible, but is reducible into, at least, two perceptions—the perception of distance and the perception of direction; and that the received principles of phrenology do not permit us to ascribe these two perceptions to a single faculty. ANDREW ALEXANDER, M.D.

Boston, Sept., 1839.

CURE FOR WARTS AND CORNS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—To the physician who has just commenced his practising career, some diseases, which before appeared to him diminutive, and scarcely worthy of his notice, if, indeed, he ever thought of them at all; now, when he is called upon to describe or cure them, seem to be matters of, at least, some importance. He comes out of the medical college with his mind well stored with theories of fevers of various names and types—of rheumatism and gout—of white swelling—of cancer and fungus hæmatodes; he has the cause, remote and proximate, of all these upon his "tongue's end," and his modes of cure are all carefully and systematically arranged, and he is inspired with the fond hope that he can cure them all; and all this is as it should be. But when a patient comes to him with a wart or a corn, he is *nonplussed*—he knows not what to do—he has not heard a single lecture upon these diseases. Are there not some of my medical brethren who can testify to the truth of these remarks? My object in addressing you at this time is to name the modes of treatment which I have found most successful in removing these two troublesome diseases. I shall not stop here to describe them. Their description can be found in the admirable work of Dr. Warren, entitled "Surgical Observations on Tumors."

The *verruca*, or wart, which sometimes causes much inconvenience from its pressure upon adjacent parts, and is always "unsightly and unsmooth," may be speedily removed by the *potassa fusa* (potass., fused potass, caustic kali). Before the application, the wart should be pared, with a sharp knife or razor, down to the quick; carefully, however, so as to produce scarcely any hæmorrhage. Patients will cheerfully submit to this operation, who could by no means be induced to undergo an operation by the knife. One application is usually sufficient. Some soreness remains for a while, but the part becomes sound sooner than when the wart is removed by excision.

The *clavus*, or corn, may be cured in a few days by wearing the following plaster. R. Pix Burgund., emp. diach., emp. hydrarg., 3 parts each; rosin, 1 part. Melt and mix the whole together and spread it upon cloth or soft skin, and apply this upon the corn. All pressure upon the part must, of course, be avoided, that being the exciting cause of the disease.

Respectfully yours,

Unionville, Sept. 18, 1839. E. G. Wheeler.

MACROTRYS RACEMOSA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—I noticed, in a recent No. of the Journal, a communication from Dr. Wheeler, on the Macrotrys racemosa of Eaton. That it is a most valuable addition to our materia medica, will be acknowledged by any one who may use it properly and extensively. Dr. W. has told the truth, but not the *whole* truth. I have repeatedly seen it used as a substitute for the ergot, and in every case with the most happy effect. It has the desired properties as a partus accelerator, without the power of doing injury to the fœtus, as sometimes does the ergot. Also it does not diminish the susceptibility of the uterus to succeeding doses of the medicine, as is the fact when the ergot is given. In single large and full doses, it produces convulsive contractions of the muscles of involuntary motion, and first of the uterus. Thus it is narcotic, and ecbolic because of its peculiar narcotic operation. When given in inordinate quantities, it will produce convulsive action of the heart, and painful palpitations. Beside being narcotic, it operates in a peculiar manner on the glandular system. Thus it increases or diminishes the secretion from the liver, when its secretions are morbidly diminished or increased. It removes topical inflammations of the atonic kind, without an evacuation. It affects the bronchial mucous membrane, diminishing morbidly increased expectoration. Diaphoresis and diuresis often follow the use of the article. It has an action on the cutaneous surface, differing from a diaphoretic, producing resolution of the diseases peculiar to the part. It is emmenagoge. It removes pain of the neuralgic kind, thus being a valuable medicine in colic. On some patients it has a cathartic operation, though this is but rarely noticed.

For the removal of rheumatism, whether acute or chronic, it is the Samson of the materia medica. The gates of Gaza, posts and all, are sure to start, if it be properly given. It is necessary, in order that the medicine may operate as we wish in this or any disease, that the strength of action in the circulating system be as much as possible short of phlogistic diathesis, and any reduction below this point by bleeding or purging will be injurious. It should be given every hour, and continued till some symptoms of ultimate narcosis appear—then hold on for a few hours, and resume again if necessary.

In ophthalmitis conjunctiva its effects will be as distinctly seen as in any disease. A short time since, I was called to administer to a maiden lady suffering with this affection. The prescription was tinct. m. racemosa ℥ i. every hour. As some topical application was of course expected, and none being prescribed, the gentleman of the house sportingly inquired why I did not extract a tooth to cure the eyes? In a few hours the intolerance to light was mostly removed, and the second ounce of the medicine completely cured the disease. In other cases it has had the same immediate and happy effect, no other medicine being given. It is said that it has been given to gravid females for the removal of cough, with the effect of producing speedy abortion.

The best possible manner of giving it is in the form of tincture, which should be made with four ounces of the bruised root to one pint of undiluted alcohol. If the alcohol be diluted, the value of the tincture will be much deteriorated. The watery infusion is of no account. Given in fine powder it is not inert, but it is not the best preparation. Alcohol seems to be its proper menstruum, and the stronger the alcohol the better. J. B.

Griswold, Conn., Sept. 9, 1839.

LETTERS FROM THE WEST.—NO. VII.

WESTERN PRACTITIONERS.—QUACKERY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—During the spring and summer past I have travelled in every Western State, except Michigan, and have endeavored to make some observations upon the character of western practitioners, and inquiries respecting legislative enactment touching the qualifications of physicians. Concerning the latter, I have only to say that the whole West is now open for all grades and sects. In former years provision was made by the statutes of Ohio and Kentucky for admitting individuals to practise, and for the exclusion of those who were incompetent; but these laws have been repealed; and at this day the regular graduated physician, and the man who studied medicine day before yesterday, bought his drugs yesterday, and commenced practice this morning, in the eyes of the law stand on equal footing. Such being the case, you may readily suppose that the practitioners of this section of our country are men of various stamps of intelligence. Here may be found the highly intelligent, regularly educated physician, and the ignorant, impudent quack: the one possessed of modesty and dignity; the other, the trumpeter of his own deeds, having no other claim to the support of the community than a low, vulgar art of deception. Such men, Sir, are often found together in the same village—one pursuing an honest course, the other using every means he can to impose upon an unsuspecting and too often credulous public. It is indeed a matter of great wonder that quackery should be tolerated in the West to so great an extent. While the regular physician may spend years in active exertion to secure the confidence of the people, and scarcely make a decent support, the presumptuous quack can puff himself into immediate notice and obtain a lucrative practice; and if, perchance, he should become unpopular, and lose the support of a community, he has only to change his residence and again exert his contemptible arts of imposition. It is true, likewise, that another impostor can supply his place, and deceive the same public. Such empirics are to be found in every portion of the western country, and such is the encouragement they receive.

I wish now to call your attention to a prominent feature in the character of western physicians—those who may be styled good practitioners. I mean a disposition for quarrelling. You may discover this trait in the man who holds the dignified station of professor, and in him who hangs out the sign of the "pestle and mortar" in the most obscure village of the West. In searching for a cause of so great a fault, I am led to pronounce it the want of a thorough and uniform system of education. There may be many other circumstances of a local and individual character which create dissention, but I am well convinced that if every physician was a regular graduate of medicine, and had received a pretty liberal collegiate education, which would lead one and all to think and act with greater harmony, the western profession would present a band of brothers, united for the exalted purpose of elevating, by every laudable exertion, the science of medicine. But this is far from being the fact. Do not suppose I wish to cast unqualified censure upon the medical men of the West. I will readily admit an abundance of individual talent and intelligence; but they cannot move together in such a manner as will best promote the object just named. Not one in twenty appears to have any acquaintance with medical ethics, an essential part of a good system of medical education. This is a fruitful source of perpetual backbiting and animosity. Many have acquired a knowledge of the classics, while others are entirely ignorant of them. This, in the course of time, lays the foundation of enmity and slander. A great number of practitioners in the West have attended but one course of lectures; and if their competitors are graduates, peace rarely ever exists long between them. There are many other minor causes, which I could detail, but the whole can be traced back to the great parent source—"*the want of a thorough and uniform system of education.*"

To effect a reformation, time and labor will be required. In truth, I am firmly convinced that we need, throughout the whole Union, a more rigid system of medical education. The degree of Doctor of Medicine is too easily obtained; and could the professional talent of the United States be concentrated, and adopt a more thorough and extensive plan of imparting instruction to the student of medicine, and more rigid requisitions for the doctorate than at present exist, we should doubtless witness, in the course of a few years, a most wonderful and happy change. For one, I would insist upon the necessity of attending three courses of lectures, and acquiring, at least, a respectable collegiate education.

Finally, for the improvement of our profession, it is by no means unimportant that *the people themselves should be educated.* For I am persuaded that so long as ignorance prevails, empiricism will flourish. The two are sworn friends, and mutually support each other. Destroy the first, and the latter must die.

Perhaps this will be my last letter from the West. I expect to go south in a few weeks.

Yours truly,

Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 25th, 1839.

W. J. B.

ON LIGATURE OF THE LIMBS, AS A MEANS OF SHORTENING THE DURATION OF THE PAROXYSM OF INTERMITTENT FEVER.

BY DRS. FENBECK AND GOEDECHEN.

Case I.—A man, aged fifty, of robust constitution, had been suffering for more than three months from tertian fever, which had resisted all rational means of treatment. Dr. Fenbeck, therefore, advised the patient to try the application of the ligature. As the sensation of cold had hitherto commenced in the foot, and had from thence spread over the rest of the body, the ligature, as soon as the first symptom of the cold fit was perceived, was applied tightly immediately above the knee; the cold was, in consequence, soon dissipated, but some heat followed with rather profuse perspiration. The patient continued to apply the ligature immediately on the slightest feeling of cold, at the usual period for the return of the paroxysm, and succeeded in arresting the further development of the cold fit. Heat and perspiration, however, still continued; but these symptoms were removed by quinine, which had formerly been given without relief.

Case II.—A woman, aged fifty-two, was attacked with intermittent fever, and refused to take any medicine for its removal. Recourse was, therefore, had to the ligature as the only means which promised to be beneficial. The first application had scarcely any effect; the second shortened the cold fit and diminished the heat and perspiration. By each succeeding application the paroxysm became less severe, and disappeared entirely with the sixth, and in fourteen days the patient was in a condition to undertake a fatiguing journey.

Case III.—A sailor, aged thirty-seven, of weak constitution, was attacked in February, 1834, with septan fever, complicated with gastric affection. A treatment, principally directed against the latter, removed the fever, and the patient was dismissed the hospital. He was again received, on the 4th of April, with tertian fever; the cold fit lasted about one hour and a half, and was extremely severe; the hot and sweating stages, which were moderate in intensity, lasted respectively half an hour and a quarter of an hour. After some preliminary treatment, to remove some gastric symptoms, the ligature was applied, at the approach of the paroxysm, to the extremities, with the effect of reducing the cold stage to one hour's duration, and of changing the fever to its original septan type. Each succeeding application of the ligature reduced the intensity of the paroxysm, and in three weeks the patient was dismissed cured.—*Zeitschrift für die gesammte Medicin.*

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 2, 1839.

DR. HILDRETH'S ADDRESS.

In May last, the late President of the Medical Convention of Ohio, S. P. Hildreth, M.D., of Marietta, whose name is identified with the science of the West, delivered an address, which contains so many statistical facts in regard to the character of the diseases of the aborigines of this country and those of the early settlers, that in after times no medical document can be of more value to the American medical historian. On this account, aside from all other considerations, it should be kept by those who are so fortunate as to possess a copy, as a rare and valuable document, which must necessarily become more and more precious by age. Throughout the entire discourse there are interwoven many incidental remarks, no less interesting for their chronological details. The third division of the address, relating to the diseases of the Indians, cannot be consistently abridged, and is here copied.

"Although their red skins, and more hardy frames, would be some protection from disease, yet we find that the tribes which lived at Sandusky, and along the Scioto river, were afflicted at certain seasons with remittent and intermittent fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa. The larger portion of the sick, however, was amongst the children, and those whose bodies had not been hardened by exercise and exposures. It does not appear that these diseases were very fatal, or often prevailed as extensive epidemics, as they have done amongst the whites since their taking possession of the country.

"From history we learn that the aboriginal inhabitants of this continent were not exempt from those destructive epidemics which sometimes ravage other portions of the globe, even before the white man came amongst them; witness the mortal disease which had well nigh depopulated the district now called New England, the year before the 'forefathers' landed at Plymouth. The Massachusetts tribe of Indians are said to have been reduced from thirty thousand warriors to three hundred. This disorder, from the description of the Indians, was a contagious, pestilential, putrid fever, similar to the plague, as it was attended with buboes—some of the Indians who recovered showing the scars of the abscesses.

"In October, 1763, a fever broke out amongst the Indians on the island of Nantucket, and out of about two hundred and sixty-five persons attacked, only fifteen recovered. It is remarked that not any of the English inhabitants took the disease.

"Many of the mounds and tumuli of the West, which are filled with human bones of all ages and sexes, in nearly the same state of decomposition, would seem to indicate that life had been destroyed by disease rather than by war; as in that case the bodies would have been chiefly those of adult males, and not a mixture of all ages—as it is not to be supposed that their destroyers would have taken the trouble of their burial, but have left them scattered over the ground on the spots where they fell.

"Whether the smallpox, which seems to have been, and still continues to be, one of the most fatal diseases that ever visited the red men, was known amongst them prior to the discovery of America, remains in doubt; although I see no good reason why it should not have been, for they seem to be more susceptible to its attacks than the white man. Amongst us it is supposed sometimes to commence like other diseases, in a particular individual or family, and afterwards spread by contagion.

"The measles has also been a well-known disease amongst the Indians, but is not usually a very fatal one. Their treatment for this disease and the smallpox, appears to have been nearly the same—which was by placing the patient in a vapor bath, formed by pouring water over hot stones, and covering him with a blanket spread over boughs, beneath which he was placed. The operation was assisted by drinking freely of a decoction of hemlock spruce (Abies Canadensis), of the twigs of yellow pine (Pinus mitis,) whichever happened to be nearest the camp or village. After sweating profusely for some time he was plunged into cold water. This treatment usually proved fatal in cases of smallpox, but might be useful in a common intermittent, or an attack of inflammatory fever.

"Rheumatism is another disease to which they were very subject, especially the females, who performed all the drudgery, and carried heavy burthens for long distances on their backs. They were in fact the slaves of their husbands, transacting all their agricultural labors besides their in-door work. In sickness some old woman acted as nurse and physician, prescribing such simple remedies as their observation, in a long course of ages, handed down by tradition, had found to be useful. Amongst these a decoction of Butter-nut bark (Juglans cathartica), was often used as a purge. The wild ipecac. (Gillenia trifoliata of the hills), with Indian sage (Eupatorium perfoliatum), were employed as emetics. The latter plant, with the roots of the Indian hemp (Asclepias decumbens), was a common and very efficacious remedy for diarrhœa and dysentery, complaints from which they suffered in the summer months more than from any other, especially the children. These were often brought on by changes in diet. During the winter their food was principally venison, buffalo and bear meat, with hominy and various other dishes of Indian corn; and while they had it in plenty they enjoyed good health. In the spring and summer their food consisted chiefly of fish, and in scarce seasons they made use of fresh-water clams and muscles, which when the streams were low covered the bottoms of the creeks and rivers in thousands. These were usually roasted in the fire, as the immense heaps of *calcined* shells now seen buried in and along the banks of the Ohio, bear witness to this day. The latter article, eaten without salt, or other condiment, would be very likely to induce bowel complaints.

"When the Indian corn was first ready for boiling, the children ate voraciously of that, and being a new article of diet, in August and September, would also bring on diarrhœa, which proved more fatal to them than their other diseases. This complaint, however, they often cured with a decoction of white oak bark, and various astringent roots, especially alum root (Geranium maculatum).

"From their using so little salt in their food, the young children often suffered from worms. For this difficulty, hickory ashes, mixed in a little honey, was a common and very effectual remedy.

"Consumption and insanity were rare diseases amongst the aborigines, and seem to be chiefly confined to man in a civilized state. The more refined and intellectual his condition, the more common we find the latter complaint.

"Dropsy sometimes followed long-continued cases of intermittent fever, but was not frequent, especially among the tribes remote from the white traders, where they could not have access to whiskey. This inebriating and poisonous beverage, so grateful to the vitiated taste of the savage, has been the source of more diseases than all other causes combined.

"Their wounds were usually treated successfully by the aid of suction, and the application of emollients, such as slippery elm bark, and a decoction of beech leaves. These simple remedies, with the aid of a sound constitution, soon healed the most dangerous and extensive injuries from the knife, tomahawk, or rifle shot.

"Extreme old age amongst the Indians is at this day a rare occurrence; although when the whites first came amongst them it was not uncommon to see persons who had every appearance of being at least one hundred years old. There are several reasons why life should be more brief with them, than amongst civilized nations. Their exposure in hunting, and their almost continual wars, cut off a large portion of the male population before they reached sixty years of age; and after their intercourse with the whites, life was held by a still more uncertain tenure, from their nearly universal attachment to the '*fire water*'—a very apt and appropriate name which they had given to rum and whiskey. From their rambling and desultory habits, no adequate quantity of food was laid up for their support, at those seasons when deer and buffalo were scarce; for this reason they suffered extremely in some years from famine. At these periods the older and more helpless portion of the tribe would be sacrificed as useless incumbrances—for extreme necessity knows no law either of right or affection, especially while man is in a rude and barbarous state."

The next, or fourth division, embraces a consideration of the diseases of the early settlers of Ohio, which will be copied hereafter.

Epitome of General and Pathological Anatomy.—William J. Barbee, M.D., of Marshall, Illinois, has prepared a volume which meets the entire approbation of distinguished professors at the West, and which he proposes to put to press as soon as sufficient encouragement is given by subscription. Part first is a compilation from treatises by Bichat, Beclard, Meckel, Bayle and Hollard—the second particularly embraces pathological anatomy, abridged from the celebrated Andral. It must be regarded as a singular circumstance in this age of book-making enterprise, that no publisher has been willing to put Dr. Barbee's manuscript to press, since there is every reason for believing that it would prove a safe business operation. Under this unfavorable aspect, Dr. Barbee addresses himself, by a circular, to medical students and young practitioners, for whom the work is especially designed—asking their co-operation and patronage. A principal object is to present them with an elementary book on these important subjects, at a reasonable price. Would it not be a reproach to the physicians of the Valley of the Mississippi to withhold the means of bringing it out? Those in the eastern States who are always ready to render assistance, where the honor or advantage of the profession can be promoted, will now have an opportunity of showing their characteristic zeal. As the price is not to exceed two dollars, it will be within the reach of all who desire it. Names may be left at this office. Some months since we examined the sheets, as they came from the author's hand, and we recollect the gratification they afforded. Dr. Gross, of Cincinnati, whose great work on pathological anatomy is just ready for the public, speaks warmly in praise of Dr. Barbee's labors. Should a sufficient number of subscribers be obtained to warrant the expense, the work may be delivered to them before the expiration of the lecture season of the medical schools.

Prospects of the Profession in the State of New York.—Prodigious efforts are being made by the Thomsonians in the State of New York, to beset the Legislature, with a view to revolutionizing the present system of things in the practice of medicine and surgery. In a word, it is their intention to pray for the repeal of all laws regulating the profession of medicine—indulging the vain hope, it is presumed, of ultimately bringing down their superiors in knowledge to the low level of themselves. The radicalism of the times probably strengthens them with a hope of finally succeeding in the undertaking. The comitia minora of the State Medical Society deem the proceedings of these regular irregulars of sufficient importance to require such action on the part of the members as the interest, and especially the well-being of the Society demands. A writer in the Albany Evening Journal, however, insinuates that the tocsin of alarm sounded by Drs. Eights, Wing and Van Olinda, of the State Society, is a cunningly devised scheme for injuring the growing reputation of the Albany Medical College. For ourselves we do not hesitate to say that we discover no such tendency in their card. It would be lamentable to have any misunderstanding between the friends of that institution and the Society, since both have the same object at heart, viz., the respectability and usefulness of every practitioner in the State. By remembering that a house divided against itself, &c., they will be the better prepared to defend themselves against the encroachments and combined attacks of the common enemy.

Smallpox in Maine.—In letters from correspondents at the eastward, we are informed that smallpox has appeared in several towns and greatly alarms the inhabitants. It seems to be travelling towards the British provinces, where nothing has ever been done to limit its devastations. Vaccination is rarely practised in that region, unless there is some sudden alarm, and then but a few, comparatively, avail themselves of the benefit. If the authorities of the towns in Maine would only act energetically, when there is cause for excitement, owing to the generally unprotected state of the people, and order a general vaccination at the expense of the treasury, it would be both economical and humane. Unless such a course is pursued, there is no way of staying the increase of a most loathsome and terrific malady.

Principles of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.—It so happens, to-day, that there is barely room to acknowledge the receipt of a generous-sized volume, with the above title, by Marshall Hall, M.D., well known to fame, revised and much enlarged by our townsmen, Drs. Jacob Bigelow and Oliver W. Holmes—first American edition, from the press of Little & Brown.

Yellow Fever of Gibraltar, in 1828.—Messrs. Little, Brown & Co. have in press a translation from the French of the celebrated P. C. A. Louis, of Paris, by George C. Shattuck, Jr., M.D., of Boston, entitled the *Yellow Fever of Gibraltar in* 1828, *anatomically, pathologically and therapeutically considered,* which will be ready for circulation in about four weeks. That it will greatly interest the profession of this country, there cannot be a doubt. A further notice will be given of it as soon as a copy is in readiness for examination.

Case of Spontaneous rupture of the Spleen.—By Dr. Nuckel, of Cöln. —Mr. J., æt 25, had suffered for a fortnight from diarrhœa, but did not seem very ill, being able to get about. He took lead and opium, in small doses, without benefit. For two days before his death he kept his bed, on account of pains in the abdomen; on the last, he was suddenly seized with a feeling of anguish (Angstgefühl), and with cold sweats, &c.; he expired after a few hours. On examining the body, forty-eight hours after death, there was found a great effusion of blood in the abdomen and pelvis, which was traced to an angular rent in the spleen, three or four lines broad, and situated on the lower part of the anterior and outer surface of the viscus. The spleen measured about five inches in length and four in breadth. Its surface was of a dark, livid color. Its coat was so rotten that the fingers pierced it in handling it; the parenchymatous substance resembled a dark red paste. The great vessels in the abdomen were sound. The stomach and upper portion of the duodenum were normal, but the ileum was covered with numerous ulcers.—*Med. Zeitung.*

Ivory Bougies.—Charriere, surgeons' instrument maker in Paris, has exhibited to the Academy bougies and other instruments, made of flexible ivory (ivory from which the calcareous matter has been extracted). They are according to the pattern of some bougies given to him by Dr. Jüterbock, of Vienna. They serve the purpose completely of elastic gum instruments, and have the great advantage, that they may be made in a few days, whereas the preparation of caoutchouc instruments occupies several months. In a practical point of view, the ivory bougies have the advantage that, when they are dry, any desired bend or curvature may be given to them, which is retained notwithstanding their elasticity. The dryer they are on introduction the more they expand, without losing in durability and firmness.—*British and Foreign Medical Review.*

Notice.—S. Freeman, Esq., of Williamstown, N. Y., is no longer agent for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Erratum.—In the article on deafness, on 111th page, 25th line, for *cures* read *cases.*

Died,—At Bernardstown, Mass., Dr. Gideon Ryther, 71, Postmaster.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Sept. 28, 35. Males, 15—females, 20.

Of consumption, 6—inflammation of the bowels, 2—cholera infantum, 2—infantile, 3—teething, 3—typhous fever, 3—hooping cough, 2—slow fever, 1—dysentery, 2—old age, 3—debility, 1—scrofula, 1—croup, 1,—scarlet fever, 2—stillborn, 1.

MEDICAL INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE.

The Lectures in this Institution will commence on Thursday, October 3, 1839, and continue sixteen weeks.

Benjamin Silliman, M.D. LL.D., Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Mineralogy and Geology.
Eli Ives, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.
William Tully, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.
Jonathan Knight, M.D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.
Timothy P. Beers, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics.
Charles Hooker, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

The fees, which are required in advance, are $12 50 for each course, except that on obstetrics, which is $6. The matriculation fee is $5, and the contingent bill for the course on chemistry, $2 50. The expense of a full course, therefore, is $76. There is no expense for dissection fee, and for a reasonable price students are furnished with as many subjects as they may require. The lecture and dissection rooms are spacious and commodious, and the various cabinets are richly supplied. The graduation fee is $15.

CHARLES HOOKER, *Secretary.*
Yale College, August 1, 1839. Aug 7—6t

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE.
Medical Department.—Session, 1839—1840.

The regular Lectures in this institution will commence on the last Monday of October, and continue to the 1st of March. The Faculty consists of the following professors, in the order of their appointment.

J. H. Miller, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.
Sam'l K. Jennings, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Legal Medicine.
Wm. W. Handy, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children.
John C. S. Monkur, M.D., Professor of Institutes and Practice of Medicine.
Edward Foreman, M.D., Professor of Chemistry.
John R. W. Dunbar, M.D., Professor of Surgery and Surgical Anatomy.
W. R. Handy, Demonstrator of Anatomy.

The plan of this institution is a new one in this country. The college buildings are so constructed, as to present peculiar advantages to the student, which every intelligent medical man will at once perceive, as this plan unites a Medical College, Marine and City Hospital, Rooms and excellent Board for a large number of resident students, who have the charge of the patients under the direction of the professors. Clinical lectures are delivered during the session, on Medicine and Surgery, by the professors of the respective chairs. Northern students who contemplate emigrating to the middle and southern States, are invited to examine the plan and location of this institution.

Additional information in reference to the plan, terms, &c., and a circular, may be obtained by a letter addressed to JOHN R. W. DUNBAR,
S 18—tN *Dean of Medical Faculty.*

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society will be held at their room, Athenæum Building, Pearl street, on Wednesday, Oct. 2d, at 11 o'clock, A. M.
S 25—2t S. D. TOWNSEND, *Recording Secretary.*

MEDICAL LECTURES IN BOSTON.

The Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin in the Medical College, Mason street, Boston, the first Wednesday in November next, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and continue sixteen weeks.

Anatomy, and Operations of Surgery, by - - - - - -	John C. Warren, M.D.
Chemistry, by - - - - - - - - -	John W. Webster, M.D.
Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, by - - - - - -	Walter Channing, M.D.
Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, by - - - - -	Jacob Bigelow, M.D.
Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, by - - - -	George Hayward, M.D.
Theory and Practice of Physic, by - - - - - - -	John Ware, M.D.

At a meeting of the Faculty, it was

Voted, "That no two courses of Lectures shall be admitted to qualify students for gratuitous admission to Lectures in this School which have not been attended in separate years, or at least six months from each other. WALTER CHANNING, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Boston, July 10, 1839. Jy 17—tN

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and where opportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their professional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examinations or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructers.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
Oct. 31—eptf GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr.
WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr.

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The subscribers, at their private medical school in Tremont street, offer the following facilities to professional students.

1. A daily attendance at the wards of the Massachusetts General Hospital.
2. Attendance at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.
3. Opportunities of seeing interesting cases and surgical operations in private practice, in the dispensaries and elsewhere.
4. Occasional opportunities for obstetric practice.
5. Lectures on surgery and on diseases of the eyes, and practical demonstrations in anatomy from recent subjects.
6. Regular examinations, as far as desired, in all the branches, in the interval between the lectures of Harvard University.
7. A private dissecting room, in which during the last year an abundant supply of anatomical subjects has been gratuitously furnished.

Eighteen gentlemen have entered this school since its commencement in September last.

JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
Boston, May 15, 1839. 2am6m D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

THE CHASE INFIRMARY

FOR THE TREATMENT OF HERNIA, AT CONCORD, N. H.

The perfect retention of the bowel is here guaranteed in all cases of *reducible* hernia, and a *radical cure* may be expected, except in cases of long standing in aged people. The attendance of the patient is required no further than to afford opportunity, by means of a suitable instrument, to adjust the degree of pressure necessary to ensure the certain retention of the bowel, provided the patient immediately report himself should a re-appearance of the hernia, or too much inflammation, render a different adjustment of the instrument necessary. THO. CHADBOURNE, M.D., *Concord, N.H.*

References.—Amos Twitchell, M.D., Keene; Matthias Spaulding, M.D., Amherst; Oliver Perry, M.D., Exeter; C. A. Cheever, M.D., Portsmouth; William Burns, M.D., Littleton. A14—

SITUATION.

A physician, in a pleasant part of the "Connecticut Valley," wishes to dispose of some personal property, &c., and remove. Reference, for name and place, to the publisher of the Journal.

S 18—3t

TO PHYSICIANS.

A physician who has practised in the place 19 years, and which is within two hours ride of Boston, being desirous of changing his business, offers his stand on such favorable terms as to give a very fine opportunity for a physician to establish himself in practice. Inquire at this office; if by mail, post paid. S 18—tf

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